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Berman et al.

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[54] **ENDOSCOPIC SHAVER BLADE WINDOW POSITIONING SYSTEM**

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[*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,669,921.

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 617,524, Mar. 15, 1996, Pat. No. 5,669,921, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 276, 979, Jul. 19, 1994, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A61B 17/32**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **606/167**; 606/170

[58] **Field of Search** 606/170, 167, 606/180, 174, 171

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A positioning system for controlling the orientation of the movable elongated inner member relative to the fixed elongated outer member of a surgical instrument. An endoscopic rotatable shaver instrument incorporates a shaver blade assembly adapted to be received in and driven by a handpiece. The movable component of the shaver blade assembly is provided with a position indicator which is read by a sensor in the handpiece in order to control the position at which the inner member is stopped relative to the outer member. The invention is embodied in an apparatus and method enabling use of a shaver blade assembly as an aspirating device or as a probe without any aspirating function.

5 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets